upon rabbits, which show that toxine can provoke an inflammation of serous membranes, like the pleura.

A STUDY UPON THE CONVULSIONS OF CHILDHOOD.

IN a communication to the International Congress of Rome, CORNÉLIE CHENBACH of Bucharest (*Revue mensuelle des Maladies de l'Enfance*, September, 1894, p. 451) presents a clinical and experimental study upon this very common but little understood complication of many diseased conditions of early life. Following the earliest experiments of Feltz and Ritter, and the more recent ones of Bouchard, the author has carried out a series of experimental studies by injecting the urine of epileptic subjects into the circulation of the rabbit. The conclusions of this portion of the work are as follows:

1. The urine of convulsive affections, filtered and introduced into the circulation of rabbits, produces clonic and tonic convulsive manifestations.
2. These convulsions appear more rapidly, and are more violent than those produced by normal urine.
3. Prolonged boiling diminishes in part the toxicity of the urine, and modifies the toxines contained in it.
4. The presence of convulsivant substances in the urine of convulsive affections appears to be proven.
5. Bromide of potassium employed in the treatment of such affections, being introduced into animals with the urine containing it, diminishes or even prevents such convulsions.
6. In convulsive affections of children the urine shows a more energetic and prompt action than that of adults under the same conditions.

In the clinical study especial attention is paid to the convulsions appearing in the course of the infectious diseases. Briefly, the results are thus summed up:

1. It is to be admitted as probably the fact that convulsivant substances are found in the organism and produce auto-intoxication.
2. Such auto-intoxications give the most satisfactory explanation of the production of convulsive phenomena in children during or following infectious diseases.
3. Alterations in the liver, by diminishing its antitoxic activity, favor auto-intoxication, and, consequently, the appearance of convulsions.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA INFANTUM BY LARGE DOSES OF WATER.

JULES PARA (*Revue mensuelle des Maladies de l'Enfance*, September, 1894, p. 479) reports five cases of cholera infantum treated successfully in accordance with the plan of Luton, of Reims, and Rémy, of Nancy. He believes that by this method almost all children affected while in good health may be saved if seen by the physician sufficiently early. In accordance with Rémy's method, in the beginning of the treatment all food is interdicted, this restriction to be maintained for a number of hours, according to the strength of the child and the intensity of the disease. Then, to answer the immediate indications, to calm thirst, cleanse the digestive tract of the poisonous substances which it contains, and to restore to the blood the liquid lost, and reestablish normal blood-pressure, water is prescribed. Plain water, however, is not suitable, nor is an acidulated solution. A feebly alkalized and sparkling water, like that of Soultzmatt or Vals, has proved most acceptable. At first, small doses are given, frequently repeated, as long as thirst is evident; and in this way, in a few hours, a quarter, half, or even an entire litre may be taken. When the gastric intolerance is extreme, the first doses are rejected; but this irritability will soon subside under persistent administration. The cry, which indicates the sufferings of the organism deprived of water, quickly ceases, and a period of quietude supervenes. Under the influence of the absorption of water into the blood the circulation is re-established and all the alarming symptoms subside. While, however, the child is thus saved from its impending peril, the success of the case naturally depends upon the subsequent treatment, which is carried out by the cautious administration of well-diluted sterilized milk, increasing the strength of the mixture gradually until the pure milk can be borne.

PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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CHOLERA: A FATAL CASE FROM LABORATORY INFECTION.

IT will be remembered that the experiments of Von Pettenkofer relative to the etiology of cholera, in the course of which he swallowed a considerable quantity of a bouillon culture of the specific bacilli with the effect of inducing only a moderate degree of gastro-enteritis, led him to the conclusion that the germs alone were incapable of producing true Asiatic cholera (Cf. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES, March, 1893, p. 355). This conclusion was at the time disputed by the Berlin school of bacteriologists, by whom it was suggested that Von Pettenkofer had in reality suffered from a mild attack of cholera, and that, in any event, one case of positive infection would outweigh many negative experiments. The positive, unquestionable proof has at last come to us in the case of Dr. Oergel, Assistant at the Hygienic Institute in Hamburg, who died recently from cholera acquired by direct infection while experimenting with pure cultures of the cholera bacilli. Details of the case are reported by REINCKE in the *Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*, 1894, No. 41, p. 795.

The exact manner in which the infection occurred is not definitely known. Oergel was known to have on several occasions met with accidents in handling the cholera cultures with which he was working, and on one occasion he inadvertently sucked up through a pipette some of the peritoneal contents of a guinea-pig which had previously been inoculated with a virulent culture. Immediately after this he began to have diarrhea, which proved